

*Trifolium pratense* in this vicinity in great abundance and is doing much damage. It seems to be most abundant in the aftermath, though it is not confined to the clover of meadows. In many instances the rust is so abundant that the clover leaves are half or more dry and dead. I should say the damage would vary from 5 to 20 per cent. of the value of the clover. So far as I know, the parasite has never been reported on *T. pratense* from this country before, though it is known in Europe. (Cf. Winter, *Die Pilze*, i, 159.) Two years ago it was abundant here on *T. hybridum*, but this year it seems to have changed to the red clover. *T. hybridum* is also a new host for America. *Uromyces medicagenis-falcatæ* (DC.) Wint. on *Medicago lupulina* has been abundant here every year since 1883.—LUCIEN M. UNDERWOOD, *Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y.*

**Diœcism in *Andropogon provincialis*.**—The Iowa experiment station has been collecting seeds of some of the native prairie grasses for the purpose of testing their value under cultivation. The one regarded as of most promise is *Andropogon provincialis* Lam., called Blue Stem or Blue Joint. At first little or no seed was found on this species; then some plants were noticed which were smaller and darker in color than the others, and so different that they seemed to be a distinct variety. The spikes of these plants proved to be well filled with seed. After this it was seen that wherever Blue Joint was found a small proportion of the plants were of this form. The spikes of these fertile plants ripen and break up earlier than those of the sterile plants. Not all of these, however, have the heads well filled with seed. The sterile plants have conspicuous stamens with abundant pollen, and also large fully expanded stigmas. The division into staminate and pistillate plants is perhaps only partial. Circumstances did not permit a more extended examination at the time, but plants of each form have been marked for future study. It would be well also for others conveniently situated to take notice regarding this feature. If it shall prove to be a permanent habit of this grass to have but few of the individuals fertile it will be a serious difficulty in the way of its profitable cultivation.—A. A. CROZIER, *Ames, Iowa.*

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## EDITORIAL.

THE EDITOR of *Grevillea*, in the September issue of that journal, accuses "some of the junior mycologists of the United States" of "committing a dangerous mistake" and of indulging in "spread-eagleism" regarding the identity of certain type specimens. Dr. Curtis collected the series of fungi known as *Herb. Curtis*. The descriptions of the new species were drawn up by Rev. M. J. Berkeley, of England, and published under the joint authority of Berkeley & Curtis. Now some American has

allowed his love of country, so we are to infer, to blind him to the evident fact that where a real difference exists between a specimen in the Curtis herbarium and one in the Berkeley herbarium, it is the latter only which is to be regarded as the type. This is so obviously true that we fear that Mr. Cooke was under some misapprehension when writing his warning. But while the simple statement seems to be beyond controversy, differences may still arise as to the interpretation of the Berkeley & Curtis types. Because a cursory examination appears to make out the type specimen in the Berkeley collection to be different from the corresponding specimen in the Curtis set, it does not necessarily follow that it is really so. It is quite possible that errors might have arisen in the original study, and that the specimen in the Curtis herbarium, although different, might yet be a better representative of the real species than the type specimen itself. There is often internal evidence to show that certain specimens in Herb. Curtis, although in some characters different, are still undoubtedly the same as those in Herb. Berkeley. For instance, if a leaf with a Puccinia has been cut in two and half sent to Rev. Berkeley and half placed in the Herb. Curtis, the description in many respects corresponding to the Curtis plant, but not in others, we are not to infer that there were two distinct things, but rather that the Curtis plant is genuine, and a study of it can show facts not previously brought out. There is so much need of cautious work in determining the species and settling the nomenclature of our fungi that it can not be amiss to point out this possible source of misunderstanding.

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## CURRENT LITERATURE.

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### Minor Notices.

THE FLORA of the Santa Barbara Islands is the subject of a paper<sup>1</sup> by Mr. T. S. Brandegee. The author investigated the two largest islands, Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa, and in the paper before us gives a list of the plants found. A comparison is made between this flora and that of the neighboring Santa Inez mountains on the mainland. Of the almost 400 species, nearly 380 may be considered as belonging to the San Diego flora, leaving some ten or twelve endemic species. There are, besides these, some nine or ten species not found on the mainland, but are common to other coast islands.

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<sup>1</sup> BRANDEGEE, T. S.—Flora of the Santa Barbara Islands. Reprint from Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci., 2d Ser., Vol. I, Part 2. pp. 201-226. Issued October, 1888.